

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for locking a camera in a portable terminal, the portable terminal includes the camera for photographing an image, a memory for storing secret codes, an image processor for processing the photographed image, and a display unit for displaying the processed image, the method comprising the steps of:
5 receiving a secret code;
storing the secret code in the memory; and
stopping an operation of the image processor.

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2. A method for releasing a locked state of a camera in a portable terminal, the portable terminal includes the camera for photographing an image, a memory for storing secret codes, an image processor for processing the photographed image, and a display unit for displaying the processed image, the method comprising the
15 steps of:

comparing an input secret code with one of the secret codes stored in the memory; and
enabling the image processor to operate when the input secret code matches one of the secret codes stored in the memory.

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3. A method for locking a camera in a portable terminal by means of a cipher apparatus connected to the portable terminal, the portable terminal includes the camera for photographing an image, a memory for storing secret codes, an image processor for processing the photographed image, and a display unit for displaying the
25 processed image, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) the cipher apparatus receiving information from the portable terminal, establishing a secret code, and transmitting enciphered data;

(2) the portable terminal receiving the enciphered data and stopping an operation of the camera; and

30 (3) the cipher apparatus receiving information reporting a locked state of the camera, and storing and displaying the secret code and a telephone number of the portable terminal.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein step (1) comprises the
35 steps of:

the cipher apparatus requesting time information and the telephone number of the portable terminal;

the portable terminal transmitting the time information and the telephone number of the portable terminal;

5 the cipher apparatus receiving the time information and the telephone number of the portable terminal, establishing the secret code, and enciphering the secret code by means of the time information; and

the cipher apparatus transmitting enciphered data obtained from the secret code.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein step (2) comprises the steps of:

storing the secret code in the memory of the portable terminal; and
stopping an operation of the image processor.

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6. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein data are exchanged through a cable to lock the camera of the portable terminal.

7. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein data are exchanged
20 wirelessly, to lock the camera of the portable terminal.

8. A method for releasing a locked state of a camera in a portable terminal by means of a cipher apparatus connected to the portable terminal, the portable terminal includes the camera for photographing an image, a memory for storing secret codes, an image processor for processing the photographed image, and a display unit for displaying the processed image, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) the cipher apparatus receiving information of the portable terminal, and obtaining a secret code for the locked state of the camera from a database;

30 (2) the cipher apparatus transmitting enciphered data obtained from the secret code;

(3) the portable terminal receiving and deciphering the enciphered data, and comparing the secret code received from the cipher apparatus with one of the secret codes stored in the memory; and

35 (4) enabling the camera to operate when the secret code matches said one of the secret codes stored in the memory.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein step (4) comprises the steps of:

5 enabling the image processor to operate; and
transmitting information reporting a released state of the camera to the cipher apparatus.

10. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein data is exchanged through a cable to release the locked state of the camera of the portable terminal.

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11. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein data is exchanged wirelessly to release the locked state of the camera of the portable terminal.

12. A method for preventing a camera of a portable phone located in a cell 15 of a base station from being operated, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) the base station transmitting a camera locking signal to the portable terminal located in the cell of the base station to prevent the camera from being used; and
(2) the portable terminal receiving the camera locking signal and preventing 20 the camera from operating.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, in step (1), the base station periodically transmits the camera locking signal at a predetermined time interval.

25 14. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein step (2) comprises the steps of:

determining whether the portable terminal receives the camera locking signal; and
30 preventing an image processor of the portable phone from being operated to process a photographed image for a predetermined time period when the portable terminal receives the camera locking signal.